

DOUBLE SHEET.

A Stone Falls from the Sky, with Characters Engraved upon It.

Mr. James Lumley, an old Rocky Mountain trapper, who has been stopping at the Everett House for several days, makes a most remarkable statement to us, and one which, if authenticated, will produce the greatest excitement in the scientific world.

Mr. Lumley states that about the middle of last September, he was engaged in trapping in the mountains, about seventy-five or one hundred miles above the great falls of the Upper Missouri, and in the neighborhood of what is known as Cadotte's Pass. Just after sunset one evening, he beheld a bright luminous body in the heavens, which was moving with great rapidity in an Easterly direction. It was plainly visible for at least five seconds, when it suddenly separated into particles, resembling, as Mr. Lumley describes it, the bursting of a sky-rocket in the air. A few minutes later, he heard a heavy explosion, which jarred the earth very perceptibly, and this was shortly after followed by a rushing sound, like a tornado sweeping through the forest. A strong wind sprang up about the same time, but as suddenly subsided. The air was also filled with a peculiar odor of a sulphurous character.

These incidents would have made but slight impression on the mind of Mr. Lumley, but for the fact that on the ensuing day he discovered, at a distance of about two miles from his camping place, that, as far as he could see in either direction, a path had been cut through the forest, several rods wide—giant trees uprooted or broken off near the ground—the tops of hills shaved off, and the earth plowed up in many places. Great and wide-spread havoc was everywhere visible. Following up this track of desolation, he soon ascertained the cause of it in the shape of an immense stone that had been driven into the side of a mountain. But now comes the most remarkable part of the story. An examination of this stone, or so much of it as was visible, showed that it had been divided into compartments, and that, in various places, it was carved with curious hieroglyphics. More than this, Mr. Lumley also discovered fragments of a substance resembling glass, and here and there dark stains, as though caused by a liquid. He is confident that the hieroglyphics were the work of human hands, and that the stone itself, although but a fragment of an immense body, must have been used for some purpose by animated beings.

Strange as this story appears, Mr. Lumley relates it with so much sincerity that we are forced to accept it as true. It is evident that the stone which he discovered was a fragment of the meteor which was visible in this section in September last. It will be remembered that it was seen in Leavenworth, in Galena, and in this city by Col. Bonneville. At Leavenworth, it was seen to separate in particles or explode.

Astronomers have long held that it is probable that the heavenly bodies are inhabited—even the comets—and it may be that the meteors are used as a means of conveyance by the inhabitants of other planets, in exploring space, and it may be that hereafter some future Columbus, from Mercury or Uranus, may land on this planet by means of a meteoric conveyance, and take full possession thereof—as did the Spanish navigators of the new world in 1492, and eventually drive what is known as the "human race" into a condition of the most abject servitude. It has always been a favorite theory with many that there must be a race superior to us, and this may at some future time be demonstrated in the manner we have indicated.—*St. Louis Democrat.*

Startling Frauds in the New York Custom House.

Private information had been given to the United States Commissioner and Assistant District Attorney of the Eastern District of Brooklyn, to the effect that certain parties had attempted to fraudulently export three hundred barrels of alcohol out of New York without paying the tax, and detectives were at once put on their track. After considerable difficulty the plot was discovered, and the names of all the parties concerned are now known to the United States officials. The following are all the facts connected with the case that we are at liberty to publish for the present:

The three hundred barrels in question were originally owned by the firm of Cuthbert & Cunningham, extensive

distillers in the Eastern District, who have also bonded warehouses for the storage of bonded goods. They sold the goods to a man named Benham Fabian, ostensibly from Richmond, who bonded the goods in the custom house for exportation on board a vessel called the Anemon, which was registered in the usual form. This entry of the goods in the custom house was made in the name of Richard Clancy, who turns out to be a mythical character, having existence only in the fertile imagination of the chief actors in the fraudulent transaction. Clancy's name appeared on the shipping papers, and three bonds were given, with two sureties each—one for the shipment of one hundred and seventy barrels, one for one hundred and thirteen, and another for seventeen—making in all three hundred barrels. The date of the entry was October 10, and the bonds were actually filled up and assigned at the custom house on that day, which could not have been the case had not some of the entry clerks been in collusion with the perpetrators of the fraud.

The entry sets forth that the alcohol was in the bonded warehouse of Cuthbert & Cunningham, the original owners of the goods. This circumstance appeared rather suspicious, and was the first link to connect the firm of Cuthbert & Cunningham with the transaction. Again, the order for the delivery of the goods to Fabian was endorsed by this firm, without which endorsement the goods could not have been delivered.

The six names signed to the bonds, like that of Clancy, also turn out to be mythical individuals, which proves that at least one or more clerks in the custom house have been privy to the whole transaction, as the law requires that sureties signing bonds for the export of bonded goods must come forward in person and qualify as to their solvency; but in this case it turns out that the six names signed to the bonds are fictitious, no such persons having a local habitation or name in the community.

The names of the parties in the custom house who have lent themselves to this gross swindle are known to the officers of the United States Marshal, and in a few days some of the most startling developments in connection with this case are expected to be unfolded to the public.

[*New York Herald*, 28th.

A Really National Thanksgiving.

The President of the United States has designated Thursday, the 7th of December, as a day of national thanksgiving, when the people are to render thanks for many blessings, but particularly for this: that "it has pleased Almighty God, during the year which is now coming to an end, to relieve our beloved country from the fearful scourge of civil war, and to permit us to secure the blessings of peace, unity and harmony, with a great enlargement of civil liberty." The choice of the day and of the terms in which the proclamation is worded has its significance, and shows the original bent of President Johnson's mind. People may wonder why it is that the anniversary is changed from the last week in November to the first week in December. The reason is obvious to us, and will be recognized as cogent and proper by all. It is simply this: Congress meets on the first Monday in December, just three days before Thanksgiving. Our practical-minded President is determined that then, for the first time in four years, the representatives of every State in the Union shall have seats in the great council chamber of the nation; and he realizes that it is only when that is accomplished, when the States are rehabilitated, when North and South meet together again in amity, that a real true national thanksgiving can be observed. If there be any obstacle sought to be interposed to the organization of Congress by fanatics who are resolved to clothe the negro with all political rights, Mr. Johnson will be justified in having such obstacles brushed aside, in order that the people of the United States may enjoy their national thanksgiving. It is a capital idea, worthy of the head that gave birth to it.

In its terms, too, the proclamation is note-worthy. The President does not speak of the attainment of the most comprehensive civil liberties, but he does speak of the attainment of "a great enlargement of civil liberty." The former would have embraced the dogma of negro suffrage, and President Johnson has not yet given in his adhesion to it. But he recognizes that in the abolition of negro slavery the country has largely advanced in the way of civil liberty.

Taking these views of the selection of Thanksgiving Day, and of the

terms used in the proclamation, we think that they will meet the hearty approval of all good citizens, and that the people, North and South, will hail it as the beginning of an era of good fellowship and unwavering loyalty.—*New York Herald.*

The Lynchburg Freedmen.

Mr. Wm. M. Burwell, who is engaged in writing a series of letters from the South to the *National Intelligencer*, gives the following account of the condition and prospects of the freedmen of Lynchburg and neighborhood, in a recent letter to that paper:

But this social condition is not so much changed after all. The negro is the laborer and the menial as before. He now collects his own hires, with which to pay his own rent, clothing, taxes, and doctor's bills. In other respects, his relation to his former master has undergone very little alteration. The Freedmen's Bureau here seems to be in perfect accord with the people, and the problem devolves for solution upon those alone interested—the citizen and negro. In this matter, the Bureau and the military authorities have perhaps undergone a conviction similar to that of General Slocum and others who have been for some years in the South, and have thereby become familiar with the true relation of the races. With the first occupation of Lynchburg, all was confusion. The negroes crowded from the country with the most exaggerated ideas of their new condition. Orders were issued requiring their former owners to feed and employ them. Rations were issued to those who applied for them. This produced an interruption of the farming operations, which threatened a famine. A new set of orders were issued, a little more stringent upon the negro. He was excluded from the city, or put to work if he came. The people employed the negroes upon terms satisfactory to them, and the authorities enforced the contracts. Hence, all parties seem very well satisfied, and the authorities seemed disposed to entrust the negro to the care of those who have reared him and who understand his industrial constitution better than any amateur can possibly do, however high may be his science upon this subject. It is proposed that the farmers shall hold a convention at which the regulations of labor and the condition of the negro shall be reduced to a practical system, and presented to the Legislature for enactment. In further connection with the negro subject, it may be mentioned that a very intelligent colored man, named Mark Nuckles, has organized a party of about one hundred and sixty colored persons, mostly men, among whom are many valuable mechanics. This party intend to emigrate to Liberia. They have received aid and encouragement from the Colonization Society, and will make the experiment of regenerating Africa under the most favorable circumstances.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S POSITION.—The substance of President Johnson's remarks on the subject of reconstruction in the Southern States, during a recent private interview with him, is given, with the President's approval, by Major George L. Stearns, of Massachusetts. The President, in reply to the remark that the Democrats claimed that he had gone over to them, intimated that the Democratic party discovered that he was in advance of it, and that it was now trying to come up to his standard, and he hoped it would succeed in doing so. He re-enunciated his doctrine that, notwithstanding the so-called secession of certain States, they were never out of the Union, but that by their rebellious course they had forfeited their civil government, to reconstruct the machinery of which, as soon as practicable, he considers the chief duty of the time. This, he says, cannot be done in a moment; but such great and happy progress is being made in it that the results sometimes appear to him like a dream. He did not expect to forever deprive of their former civil rights even a majority of those who were excluded in the amnesty proclamation; but he intended that they should sue for pardon, and thus realize the enormity of their crime. He is in favor of allowing those negroes who have served in the army, those who can read and write, and those who are possessed of certain other qualifications, to vote, but does not think it is politic or that he has the right to force these conditions on the people of the South, though he believes that they will, ere long, concede this privilege to the freedmen. The President also favors basing representation in Congress on the number of qualified voters, instead of on population, as at present.

A REMEDY FOR CHOLERA.—"An Old Indian" writes to the Times.

"Permit one who has had considerable experience of the horrors of cholera in India to describe a simple and, in eight cases out of ten, an effectual remedy, possibly of equal value in this temperate climate, as it certainly is in the tropical. The specific was introduced, with the assistance of Government, by a Dr. Honin-burgher in Calcutta, during a period (1857 and 1858) when the ravages of cholera were really awful. At the time above quoted, I had an interest in an Indigo concern: forty-two miles from Calcutta; many entire families of the ryots were swept away by the disease, and I had a quantity of indigo seed lying in their huts, which they were unable; or, from a fatalist feeling of terror, were unwilling to put into the ground. Government at this time had provided Dr. Honin-burgher with a building for a cholera hospital, to test the merits of his treatment, a weekly list of cases being published. I went to Calcutta, introduced myself to the doctor, saw his practice at the hospital, and returned to the factory with a pair of lancets and a bottle of tincture of quassia, with which I at once inoculated three natives, all of whom appeared to be in a very hopeless state. Two recovered, as usual, very rapidly, the third sank, being too far gone before I arrived. The native doctor, or hakim, was astonished, and pronounced it to be like 'hadu' (witchcraft,) and entreated me to instruct him in the mystery, which I very gladly did, and he practised it with astonishing success. At other parts of the country in the North-west provinces my efforts with the quassia were the means of saving several lives, one of a servant whom I much valued. I could quote many instances were it needful, but fearing to trespass on the fair amount of space you may accord to this letter, let me add, that the inoculation may be done by anybody with sense enough to avoid making an incision into one of the principal veins, the quassia is dropped into the wound, the body should be shampooed, and nothing given to the patient but cool water in small quantities. Cramps rapidly cease, and fair circulation of the blood is restored, the invariable exclamation of the invalid on recovering consciousness being 'Hum gurlan hota hei,' (I'm getting warm,) with a great sigh of relief; a relapse during the first few hours may be feared; in such a case a second inoculation in two or more places must be performed.

THE WIDOW OF THE POET MOORE.

On September 4, at Sloperston Cottage, Mrs. Moore, widow of the late Thomas Moore, Esq., author of "Lalla Rookh," aged sixty-eight. This is an announcement that one of the last roses of a glorious summer has at length disappeared. Few are now left of the brilliant company who adorned the early part of the nineteenth century, and whose names are famous in our literature. Among those names, none is or will be held in more kindly remembrance than that of the lady to whom the poet Moore gave his heart. Moore not only loved her—he was proud of her; and it is delightful to see in his letters and in his diaries with what eagerness he sounded her praises. He writes to his mother in 1813:

"You cannot imagine what a sensation Bessy excited at the ball the other night. She was prettily dressed, and certainly looked very beautiful. I never saw so much admiration excited. It strikes everybody almost that sees her how like the form and expressions of her face are to Catalina's."

And so through all his letters and journals, he is never tired of referring to her—quoting what she said, telling what she did, describing how she looked, and recording how she was admired. He married her in 1811, and her history is summed up in this one phrase—that she was the delight of his life. She does not appear to occupy a great place in his poetry; but it is one of the curious traits of many a poet that he is excited to sing less by the mistress of his heart than by some imaginary heroine, or by some beauty that kindles a passing flame. Mrs. Moore was not a Lesbia, nor a Beatrice, nor a Laura, nor a Highland Mary, destined in song to live forever; but as much as any of these, if not more, she was a poet's idol.

She died at 3 o'clock on the morning of Monday last. She was sensible to the end; she knew that she was dying; and she said that she was quite happy. She was the last that remained to us of the Moore family.

[*London Times*, Sept. 8.

A SHERIFF AND HIS AID KILLED.—The grand jury of the County of Ce-

dar having found an indictment for murder against two men, named Stow and Earnest, a *capias* was placed in the hands of Captain John Paynter, Sheriff of the County, to arrest the men. The Sheriff having summoned six men to assist him in making the arrest, proceeded about twelve miles from Stockton, on the Oseola road, where they came to the house in which Stow was. The sheriff and two of his assistants entered the house and found Stow in bed; he then went to the foot of the bed, and laying his hands on Stow, said: "I am the sheriff of Cedar County—you are my prisoner." At that instant Stow fired, the ball entering Captain Paynter's heart, killing him instantly. Lieut. Harvel, one of the men summoned to assist Paynter, was standing at his back, when Stow fired a second time, killing Harvel. Mr. Noble, another of the aids, who was in the room at the time, fired three times at Stow, but without effect.

A party of men, supposed to be friends to Stow, were seen approaching the house, which had been guarded outside by the remainder of the aids; but owing to the excitement occasioned by the killing of the sheriff and Lieut. Harvel, Stow made his escape about an hour afterwards; the house containing some two or three doorways.

Capt. Paynter was an active business man, and was much esteemed by his fellow-citizens. He formerly belonged to the 6th Missouri Cavalry Volunteers.—*Bolivar (Mo) Sentinel*, 6th.

THE CHOLERA IN PARIS.—The Paris correspondent of the London Times writes, October 7:

There is no doubt that the cholera has been in Paris for several days past. It is not easy to obtain a correct account of the cases. Two days ago there were from forty to fifty in the hospitals, and about twenty deaths. It is said to have been brought to Monmartre by a person just arrived from Marseilles, and who was the first victim. It has also made its appearance here and there in some of the neighboring villages. Those who were first attacked were persons suffering from illness or destitution. About fifty or sixty cases were reported yesterday.

From various accounts it would appear, however, that the cases are isolated, and up to the present time do not present an epidemic character, and the average mortality is comparatively low. It is certain that at this season there is always more or less of cholera in Paris. The change in the temperature for the last few days, with a cold breeze in the morning and evening, justifies the hope that the malady will not assume any great proportions.

"The information we have received," observes a well-informed Paris paper, "enables us to state that, if there exist isolated cases of cholera, there is not at the present any appearance of epidemic. The considerable lowering of the temperature cannot fail to make the few cases of the malady disappear."

DIRECT IMPORTATION INTO ST. LOUIS.

The *St. Louis Democrat* says that a merchant left that city on Tuesday, commissioned by a half dozen firms to visit the markets of Great Britain, to make purchases of bi-carbonate of soda, sal-soda, soda ash, caustic soda, Scotch pig iron, and Liverpool salt, and charter a vessel to bring the same to New Orleans. Arrangements have been made for one of the steamers of the Atlantic and Mississippi steamship line to receive the load of the vessel without its discharge upon the wharf of New Orleans. It is estimated that the cost of freight from Liverpool to St. Louis will not be greater than the cost from New York to St. Louis.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.—The New York Court of Appeals, reversing the decision of the Supreme Court, decides that shares in national banks are taxable by State authority, although the capital is invested in the Government bonds. The point adjudged is, that although Government securities are not taxable in the hands of individuals, yet when they are assigned to a national bank and used as the basis of banking, the tax is upon the new use and not upon the securities. The cases will be removed to the Supreme Court of the United States, and it is expected that a final decision will be obtained in December next.

It is stated that Dr. Tourrette, of Paris, died in Toulon almost immediately after his arrival. He had gone there expressly to try a cure of cholera by cold water, but had no opportunity of commencing his experiments before he himself was carried off.

The Western Democrat.

OFFICE
ON THE
WEST SIDE OF TRADE STREET

W. J. YATES, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1865.

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THE WESTERN DEMOCRAT

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TERMS, \$4 PER ANNUM, in advance.

Transient advertisements must be paid for in advance. Obituary notices are charged advertising rates.

Advertisements not marked on the manuscript for a specific time, will be inserted until forbidden, and charged accordingly.

\$1 per square of 10 lines or less will be charged for each insertion, unless the advertisement is inserted 2 months or more.

SECOND STOCK OF NEW GOODS.

T. H. BREM,
CHARLOTTE, N. C.,

Is now opening a fresh stock of Goods which he will sell as cheap as any one.

He particularly invites the attention of country Merchants to his Wholesale Stock, as he has paid especial care in selecting a Stock suitable for the trade.

His Stock consists of everything to be found in the Dry Goods, Hardware and Grocery line.

T. H. BREM.

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NOTICE.

ON TUESDAY, the 24th of December next, I will sell on the Public Square, at 11 o'clock, a.m., the highly desirable Residence of the late Wm. E. White. Persons desiring information concerning the premises, or as to terms of sale, are referred to Joseph H. Wilson, Esq., Oct 23, 1865.

A CARD.

We are gratified in being able to notify our friends and old customers, that we have resumed business, and opened in the store formerly occupied by Messrs. Brown, Tate & Co., where we are now receiving and opening well selected stocks of

DRY GOODS, HARDWARE, and Groceries.

A call from our friends is earnestly solicited.

J. C. BURROUGHS & CO.

P. S.—The notes and accounts of Fisher & Burroughs can be found at our store. Greenbacks taken at par.

Oct 23, 1865.

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SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.

The South Carolina Conference of the M. E. Church, South, commenced its annual session in Charlotte on Wednesday the 1st of November, and adjourned on Monday evening the 6th, after a very pleasant and harmonious session.

We give a sketch of some of the most important business transacted:

The following resolutions were introduced by Rev. J. W. Miller and adopted:

Resolved, That our delegates to the ensuing General Conference be requested to use their influence and votes to promote the following legislation:

1st. The material strengthening of our episcopacy by largely increasing the number of Bishops.

2d. The enlargement of the powers of the Bishops by rescinding the restriction upon their authority which forbids them to send a preacher to the same pastorate for a longer period than two years.

3d. The introduction of the lay element into the higher legislative bodies of the Church.

J. Stacy presented a Report from the Joint Board of Finance, showing that about one thousand seven hundred dollars was collected the past year for the support of the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of deceased members of the Conference.

H. C. Parsons was made superannuated. E. A. Price was located at his own request. W. Smith, J. S. Nelson, and S. B. Jones were made superannuated.

On motion, it was ordered that a collection be taken up in January and February next to defray the expenses of the Delegates to the General Conference, the amounts raised to be forwarded to the nearest Delegates.

The Church Extension Committee recommended that \$30,000 be collected during the present year, for the various purposes contemplated. The Report was adopted.

On motion of Dr. W. Smith, the Conference expressed its abiding concern for the spiritual welfare of the colored people throughout the Conference territory, leaving the matter of supplying them with the Bible and the Presiding Elders. The Quarterly Conferences are authorized to license colored men to preach and exhort, when such action does not conflict with the laws of the States in which licenses are granted.

On motion, it was ordered that a brief Pastoral Letter be addressed to the colored people. Dr. A. M. Shipp presented the Report of the Committee on Education. The institutions of learning under the care of the Conference are all in operation, excepting the Columbia Female College.

On motion of E. J. McVardie, the Delegates to the General Conference are requested to consider the expediency of having prepared a catechism for the instruction of those who are on probation, and also a form for the reception of probationers into full connection.

The following were elected Delegates to the General Conference: W. Smith, D. D. A. M. Shipp, D. D. W. A. Gamewell, H. A. C. Walker, S. H. Brown, R. J. Boyd, James Stacy, W. H. Fleming, and Charles Betts. Reserves: J. W. Kelly, J. R. Pickett, W. P. Mounson.

The first Friday in April, and the first Friday in September, were set apart as days of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer.

W. P. Mounson was re-appointed to preach the Annual Sermon before the Conference.

The Conference Missionary Society held its annual meeting on Saturday evening. \$175 was collected for Missions. Speeches were made by Rev. Dr. Whiteford Smith and Rev. W. T. Capers. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Chas. Betts; Vice-Presidents, W. A. Gamewell, H. A. C. Walker, H. M. Wood, Thos. Rayson; Secretary, W. G. Connor; Treasurer, J. R. Boyd. Board of Managers—Ministers: J. R. Pickett, J. W. North, J. W. Kelly, S. Leard, O. A. Darby, J. P. Mounson, W. A. McSwain; Laymen: Dr. T. R. Trotter, L. Chassey, Dr. A. Jolly, J. M. Richardson, L. M. Stevenson, S. M. Carlton, W. J. Yates.

Resolutions of thanks to the citizens of Charlotte, for the hospitable manner in which the Ministers were entertained, were passed.

APPOINTMENTS.—F. A. Moad, P. E. Charleston—Trinity, E. J. McVardie.

Cumberland, to be supplied

Bethel, J. T. Wightman

Spring st., W. A. Hemmingway

Cooper River—Geo. W. Byrd

Summerville—J. L. Stouder

Waterboro—M. L. Banks

Black Swamp—Abraham Nettles

Hardeville—J. W. Coward

BLACKVILLE DISTRICT—Thos. Rayson, P. E.

Blackville—J. W. Coburn

Bamburg—Chas. Wilson

St. Bartholomew—Alex. B. Stephens, J. J. Snow

Allendale—J. W. McKoy

Prince Williams—To be supplied

Barnwell—A. W. Walker

Silvertown Mission—To be supplied

Granville Mission—J. R. Pickett

Aiken—A. J. Stokes

ORANGEBURG DISTRICT—A. M. Creitzberg, P. E.

Orangeburg—J. L. Siley

Upper Orange—J. D. Little

Eastern Orange—J. D. W. Crook

Providence—J. S. Connor

Fort Motte Mission—To be supplied

St. George—John A. Moad

Edisto—W. G. Connor, R. B. Tarratt

Lexington—W. Carson, J. K. Tucker

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Darlington—W. A. Gamewell

Circuit—L. M. Hauer, J. W. Miller

Black River—J. C. Stoll

Georgetown and Sampit Mission—J. W. Murray,

A. Erwin, (sup)

Conwayboro—D. J. McMillan

Circuit—Geo. H. Mills, J. B. Platt

Waccamaw Mission—Charles Betts

COLUMBIA DISTRICT—Ch. Pritchard, P. E.

Columbia—Washington st., W. T. Capers

Marion st., E. G. Gage

Camden—T. J. Clyde

Waterloo Mission—J. L. Shuford

Chester—Samuel Leard

Sandy River—E. A. Lemmond

Winesboro—A. G. Stacy

Fairfield—A. J. Cauthen

Columbia Circuit—H. J. Morgan